

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Weeds in Spring Seed Cause for Concern

By N. C. ANDERSON
Martin Zimmerman, county extension agent in weed control, working jointly with Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties, reminded us this week of several matters of importance regarding weed control.

He has been called on several occasions recently to inspect samples of wheat for spring seeding. Two lots of spring seed shipped from Idaho contained noxious weeds. This, then, is a reminder to all of us that there is going to be some danger this spring in shipping weed seeds into the county in seed wheat. Ranchers tell us that many of our perennial noxious weeds are a result of winter freeze-outs when spring seed was shipped in from another state. This doesn't mean that other states have all the noxious weeds but past experience should be a reminder that this is a frequent source of infestation. This is especially true when bargain seed might be offered to the public. There is generally something to be desired of seed that is offered on the market far below the general selling price.

Another reminder on weeds comes as a result of flooding conditions that have prevailed over the whole area. Flood water is one of the major factors causing spread of weeds. This may be one of the worst weed years in history, particularly in those fields which lie below infested areas.

This applies to all weeds, but I believe branching knapweed is one that should be watched quite closely. Of course, Russian Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Morning Glory, Common Rye, and a whole list of weed problems can be the result of recent flooding. This means then, that growers should be on the watch for these new weeds and be ready to stop them before they can multiply.

Two 4-D will eradicate noxious broadleaf perennial weeds if applied in the seedling stage before they establish their perennial habit. Rye should be rogued the first year, removed from the field and destroyed to prevent seed production and further spread.

Precipitation Records Make Interesting Comparison
It has been extremely interesting to study precipitation records as they come to the office month by month from cooperat-

ing ranchers in the various communities through out the county. These farmer cooperators were developed by the Morrow County Weather Research in an attempt to gather some weather conditions that could be continuing in order that we might establish some long-time trends. While this organization has been inactive recently, records that are being provided by about 25 ranchers in the various communities are being assembled and summarized each year to keep a complete record. Recently, the 1964-65 growing season precipitation records were summarized and mailed to those who contribute each month. Others may wish copies of this which are available from our office.

In looking over the latest monthly precipitation reports, we find some heavy rainfall, or as one rancher who brought his precipitation record to the county office so aptly described it, "my monthly run-off record." Many would agree that much of the January precipitation left the fields due to the heavy erosion with resultant "drainage ditches" which carry away moisture quickly when snow melts on frozen ground or sudden showers come along.

Heaviest precipitation in most communities occurred on the 10th, 11th, 23rd, 24th, and 30th of the month. The storm of January 30 was the heaviest with .55 inches reported in several communities. Bob Jepsen who indicates the location of his rain gauge as 12 air miles west of Heppner, had a total of 2.01 inches for the month with his heaviest rainfall, .53 on January 30. Henry Baker, of the Gooseberry community had a total of 2.05 with .55 on January 30. Louis Carlson who is Henry Baker's next door neighbor reported the same total rainfall, 2.05.

On Little Buttercreek, Gordon O'Brien reports a total of 2.86 for the month with .82 the greatest amount falling on January 28 and .65 on January 30. He recorded .55 on the 6th also. Further down the creek at the Harry Proudfoot ranch, 2.45 inches fell. Don Pointer in the North Lexington community reported 1.19 inches for the month; Kenneth Smouse, North Lone, 1.23; Earl McCabe, further north, 1.43; Don Heliker in the West Lone area, 1.46; and W. C. Rosewall, Heppner, collected 2.09 in his rain gauge. At the Bill Weatherford ranch on Hinton

Creek, his gauge showed a total of 3.12, with .46 collected during the last storm.

Grafting Booklet Available

Our office has a new bulletin that gives information on how to graft fruit trees and timing and care of various grafts, that might be of some interest to backyard fruit growers around the county. We have occasional requests for information on this subject from time to time. Six different kinds of grafts as well as budding is explained in the illustrated publication.

Types of grafts covered include cleft, side, bridge, inarch, veneer, or bark, and whip, tongue or bench. A copy of "Grafting Fruit Trees" is available here.

Powder Kills Flood Odors

For those flood victims who had water under their house and in the basement, many are finding that odors are quite strong after a few days. These odors, while unpleasant, are not necessarily harmful to health. If ventilation does not remove them, sprinkle bleaching powder (chloride of lime) over the basement floor or on the area flooded under the house. In the case of the basements, it can be allowed to stay there until the floor dries, then sweep it up. More than one application might be needed under houses depending upon the amount of moisture that accumulates. The material is a good disinfectant.

Extension Topic Studies Teen-age Marriage Trend

By DONNA GEORGE

You probably have heard some of your friends discussing the home extension unit's February lesson entitled "Early Marriage."

Maybe you wondered just what the lesson was about and why it had been selected as a topic for the home extension women. If you heard more you realized that this lesson does apply to them. Dealing with the increase in teen-age marriages it focuses upon these questions: What is early marriage?

Why is this trend toward early marriage?

What can parents, schools and communities do to reverse the trend or otherwise prevent unhappy outcomes?

The project leaders said they feel this lesson offers help for parents of young children as well as for teenagers and their parents. (For one thing, it indicates several ways that parents may unintentionally be "pushing" their sons and daughters toward early marriage.)

The project leaders also expressed interest in making this lesson available to any other group such as church groups, parents' organizations, etc. If your organization or a group of friends are concerned please contact either the county extension office or the home extension unit chairman in your community.

\$100 Reward

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party who shot a horse on the Sumner Ranch, 3 miles west of Eightmile, about January 20.

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SAVE YOUR HAY!

A MESSAGE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

about repeal of the 1913 Excess Freight Train Crew Law being considered by the 1965 Oregon Legislature (House Bill 1198)



WESTERN STATES HAVE EXCESS FREIGHT TRAIN CREW LAWS!

TIMES HAVE CHANGED SINCE 1913



Time to repeal Oregon's 1913 Excess Freight Train Crew Law

Freight trains may operate all the way to Oregon from the midwest and south with a four-man crew. When they reach the Oregon border, they must stop and take on two more crew members. Sounds silly, doesn't it? It is silly.

Back in 1913 (before the first World War), a law was passed in Oregon which specified the minimum size crew for freight trains. Although 1965 railroad equipment and operations are as far removed from their 1913 ancestors as the Thunderbird is from the Model-T Ford, the old law is still on the books and freight trains in Oregon must carry two extra men.

THE CONSUMER PAYS THE FREIGHT!

The 1913 Excess Freight Train Crew Law works an unnecessary burden on the entire economy of Oregon. Repeal of the law by passing HB 1198 will make it possible for Oregon railroads to achieve substantial operating economies. These savings will inevitably benefit Oregon shippers and help keep Oregon competitive with neighboring states. In all the nation, only four other states have laws requiring six-man crews on freight trains.

What about safety?

Back in 1913, handbrakes were a means of assisting the engineer in controlling speed of freight trains—and handbrakes took manpower. Nowadays all rail cars are equipped with air brakes, which the engineer controls by a single valve. If the fireman (who now has no fires to tend) is eliminated on freight locomotives there will still be two men in the cab to keep a lookout—the same as on

passenger trains. Impartial agencies have determined that firemen and third brakemen are not necessary for safety.

Railroad job security will be protected

Repeal of the Excess Freight Train Crew Law will not impose hardship on railroad labor. A Federal Arbitration Award requires railroads to retain in their employment all full-time firemen with more than two years' seniority. Those with less seniority would receive as much as three months' severance pay for one year or more of service.

Under collective bargaining agreements and written commitments to the unions, Oregon railroads will retain all brakemen employed as of January 25, 1964.

Jobs will be eliminated only as the affected employees are promoted, resign, retire, die, or leave railroad service for other reasons.

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Paid Advertisement Oregon Railroad Association, L. G. Miller, Manager, Henry Building, Portland, Oregon



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